


Irish Aviation Authority The Times Building 11–12 D'Olier Street Dublin 2, Ireland www.iaa.ie	Údarás Eitlíochta na hÉireann Foirgneamh na hAmanna 11–12 Sráid D'Olier Baile Átha Cliath 2, Éire	OAM No. 17 Revision: 00 Date: 10.07.25	
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Title: Flying Display Permissions (FDPs)

1. Introduction

The purpose of this notice is to give general information to:


- a) A person applying to the Authority for permission to act as a Flying Display Director (FDD) for a flying display; and
 - b) Pilots proposing to engage in any flying display, including any 'practice display' or 'press display' which requires permission from the Irish Aviation Authority (IAA).
- 1.1. The focus of this Operations Advisory Memorandum is oriented towards aeroplanes as they constitute a significant majority of flying display applications to the IAA. However, the operating conditions for all Flying Display Permissions including those using helicopters or other aircraft types will be assessed by the IAA on a case-by-case basis.
- 1.2. In general, flying displays / flights which will require a permission include any flying activity in civil aircraft that will be deliberately performed for the purpose of providing an exhibition or entertainment at:
- a) an advertised event open to the public; or
 - b) a private event which would require a permission to operate in accordance with the requirements of the standardised rules of the air (Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 923/2012, specifically, SERA.5005(f))

2. The Regulations

2.1. The Rules applicable to flying displays in Ireland are found in:

- a) Irish Aviation Authority (Flying Displays) Order 2023: [SI 23 of 2023](#)
- b) Standardised European Rules of the Air: [SERA](#)

2.2. **Flight Permits:** Some Aircraft will have limitations or conditions endorsed on their Flight Permit which must be observed if more restrictive than SERA or the general conditions applicable to Flying Display Permission.

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3. Flying Display Director (FDD) - Duties and Responsibilities

3.1. In every case, an application for a Flying Display Permission shall be made by a Flying Display Director (FDD) accepted by the Authority. Regulations require that a person must apply to the Authority for permission to act as a FDD for each specific flying display. The FDD shall be a person of integrity, with a proven aeronautical background suitable to understand the complexity of the applicable flying display. The FDD may also be required to demonstrate to the IAA that they have a thorough understanding of any formation and or aerobatic routines in a specific application and the associated risks and mitigations. The FDD shall not be a participant in a flying display under their control or have any vested interest that may influence their safety responsibilities. The IAA reserves the right to interview an FDD applicant or call for additional evidence of their suitability and/or experience before deciding upon their acceptability.

The FDD shall be responsible for:


- conducting a risk assessment of each participating display item and the display line;
- imposing minimum height and manoeuvre restrictions in the proposed display area;
- ensuring that all display participants receive a comprehensive written and oral safety brief prior to the display;
- ensuring a means of two-way radio communication is possible with each pilot during the display; and
- coordination with emergency services for awareness in particular where the location of the flying display is in a rural setting.

The FDD will have the first and final call on the permissible local weather conditions and full authority to terminate the proposed display or to enforce any contingency deemed necessary for safety reasons.

3.2. Flight Control Committee (FCC)

Additional to the FDD, when a proposed flying display involves 4 or more display items, displaying within 15 minutes of each other, the FDD must arrange for a Flight Control Committee (FCC) to be in place. The FCC should be made up of additional persons with suitable aeronautical backgrounds. The FCC shall act under the direction of the FDD.

The FCC shall comprise of at least 2 people for a display involving 4 or more display items. When a proposed display involves more than 7 display items, the FCC shall comprise of at least 3 people. The function of the FCC is to monitor each aircraft involved in the flying display, evaluate the performance and adherence to the nominated routine, and to advise the FDD to effectively terminate the display if there are any safety concerns.

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4. Air Traffic Management

The FDD shall notify and consult with the ATM/ANS service provider designated for the airspace within which the flying display is proposed to be located. Adequate time must be given for a risk assessment to be completed by the ATM/ANS service provider to determine the impact the Flying Display may have on the provision of their service.

The ATM/ANS risk assessment may require certain safety mitigations, e.g. a letter of agreement (LOA) between the ATM/ANS service provider and the FDD, or a temporary reserved area (TRA) of airspace to ensure the safety of flying display aircraft from other airspace users.

Note: the identification and implementation of safety mitigations varies from case to case and service provider to service provider, so the FDD is advised to consult with the ATM/ANS service provider at the very early stages of a proposed flying display to avoid a delayed or postponed event.

Guidance on temporary changes to legally established airspace structures are provided in IAA Advisory Notice [ASAM No.20 - Guidance Material on Temporary Airspace](#).

ATM/ANS Service Providers for the Shannon FIR, CTA, and TMA airspace can be found in AIP Ireland under section 'ENR 2 AIR TRAFFIC SERVICES AIRSPACE', and for CTR airspace and associated aerodrome(s) under section 'AD 2.17 ATS AIRSPACE'.

5. General Guidelines:

5.1. Flying Display Limits

Except where otherwise specifically agreed, no permission will be issued with values less than the following limits (however these limits may be increased on a case-by-case basis):

Display Line Minimum Distance from Crowd Line

Aircraft Display Speed	Type of Display	
	Minimum Distance from Crowd Line	
	Flypast	Aerobatics
Up to 150 kts IAS	150 meters	230 meters
150 kts – 250 kts IAS	200 meters	230 meters
Note 1: Any planned displays involving speeds exceeding 250 kts require specific permission from the IAA.		
Note 2: No displays with velocity vectors towards the crowd line are permitted without specific permission from the IAA.		


Table 1

Minimum Flying Display Permission Heights

Manoeuvre	Minimum Altitude
Straight and Level Flypast (Note: Max 30° bank or as required to safely achieve or exit the display line)	300 feet above the highest obstacle within 230 m of the display line
Aerobatic Manoeuvres (Note: No stalled or gyroscopic manoeuvres permitted below 1500')	Recovery by 500 feet AGL above the highest obstacle within 230 m of the display line

Table 2

- 5.2. The FDD is responsible for ensuring that that all aircraft participating in a flying display (including formations) adhere to the minimum distances required from the crowd line.
- 5.3. No person may be carried during flights for the purpose of flying displays (except for the minimum required flight crew) unless specifically permitted in the FDP.
- 5.4. The FDD must ensure that the operator of any aircraft engaged in a flying display holds appropriate third-party liability insurance for the flying activities to be undertaken at that specific flying display.
- 5.5. Pilots participating in a Flying Display should remember that they remain responsible for the safe operation of their aircraft at all times.

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6. Flying Display Permission Applications

- 6.1. The FDD will conduct a risk assessment of each participating act and evaluate the extent of any mitigations required to conduct the flying display without compromising safety.
- 6.2. The FDD will also determine if any alleviations from the SERA minimum heights are required and include an application for such alleviations specifically for each act.
- 6.3. All applications must be made by the approved FDD using the appropriate application form detailed in this advisory memorandum.
- 6.4. When considering an application for permission to engage in a flying display, the IAA will evaluate each submission to confirm that suitable mitigations are put in place by the FDD to ensure public safety.
- 6.5. When an application does not meet the minimum application conditions required or it is determined that there may be any safety issue, the permission will not issue. In this case the proposed display shall not take place.

6.6. Flying Display Permission Application Procedure:

- a) All applications for a Flying Display Permission shall be submitted to the IAA on form FOD.230 (Available on the IAA website).
- b) Complete applications must be submitted at least 30 days in advance of the proposed flying display.
- c) The application shall include:
 - 1) a pictorial copy of the site layout including display lines / axes; and
 - 2) a pictorial copy of the display boundaries, spectators' enclosures and car parks;
- d) The FDP shall maintain copies of the following documents which shall be available for inspection on request of the Authority:
 - 1) a copy of the event insurance certificate (if applicable);
 - 2) a copy of the Flying Display aircraft insurance(s);
 - 3) a copy of the risk assessments for each act in the proposed display;
 - 4) aircraft permit(s) to fly (if applicable); and
 - 5) a summary of the participating pilots' experience / qualifications, as applicable.

PLEASE NOTE : The IAA may publish the details of any permission, including the pictorial copy of the proposed display line(s) and the contact details for the FDD in advance of the proposed display date.

Terms used in this Notice:

Crowd Line: means the forward edge of the areas intended for spectators and any area to which the public has access during a Flying Display;

Display Line or Axis: means the line defining the closest a display aircraft should approach the crowd line;

Display Area: means the ground area the FDD intends the display to be confined within;

Display item: means a single aircraft, or formation of aircraft, flying as one display 'act';

Practice Display or Press Display: means any part of the intended flying display performed at any time in the display area prior to the advertised or private event for which a permission is sought.

END